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### Oral History Interview: Peter Bull

Peter Bull

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ORAL HISTORY

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Address

LAKKA PAXOS GREECE

Date Nov 29, 1977

Sally Johnson  
(Signature - Witness)

This conversation takes place between English actor-author Peter Bull and Sally Johnson. Today is November 29th, 1977; and we're in Smith Hall at Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia.

SAJ Seems to be.

PB Righty-ho. Testing one, two, three, four, five, six, a hundred, a hundred and a half. Is that alright?

SAJ (laughs) Now in Greek this time.

PB Ah...ena, dia, mi...ena, dia, tres, tesera. Oh my, it's so clever of you to find out about Greece! (SAJ Oh.) I'm a quarter Greek actually. I...

SAJ Really??!!

PB Well, no...only by adoption. (SAJ Um.) I was in a play called Luther in London and um...uh, Albert Finney was taking a holiday in Corfu, which is sort of...one of my greatest friends and I went and spent Easter with him. And during that Easter, we'd come across a Greek fisherman and he said, "Where would you like to go?" And I said, "I think I'd like to go see an island called Paxos." And we went over to this island and we got marooned there for three days.

SAJ Well...worse things could happen. (laughs)

PB Well, certainly! And I um fell in love with it. And when I came back I wrote on my shopping list: laun...um, go and get laundry, buy um soap, uh get land in Paxos. And you'll find that if you have a list of things to do, and you cross off the ones you do, you find that eventually you do what you want to do. (SAJ Um.) And the next year I went out and bought a tiny bit of land for the equivalent of what is now \$78.00. (SAJ Ah!) And, um, I built a tiny house there, and I have lived there for the last fifteen years. I was the first foreigner there but now, unfortunately um...Oh, in fact I had to write a book because one of the Greeks said to me, "You're keeping tourists away, aren't you?" And I said, "No! Of course, I'm not." But the Greeks, you see, think that everyone wants to live next door to each other. The Greeks, all their family, they all live right on top of each other; they never leave each other. And, so, whenever a visitor or relative came to see me, they'd sieze them by the hand and try to sell them land before they'd even got up to the... (laughs) at the top of the hill. Little knowing it was the one thing I

didn't want. But, um, and that's really, uh, um, ah my life there except that now a daily trip goes over, and they point up to my house and say, "That's the house of the famous author and actor Peter Bull." And you can see everyone saying, "Peter Who? Peter Who?" and uh...

SAJ The original foreigner that came.

PB Absolutely. And um, and they regard me as a great sort of asset to the island. Because of this book I wrote called It Tisn't All Greek To Me.

SAJ Oh. Uh, I know, I have your Teddy Bear Book.

PB Oh, yes.

SAJ I'm very hard to surprise at Christmastime, and my parents are not too, um, fond of bears. They are surrounded by them but, you know, have yet to...in 29 years, to ah agree to this.

PB To see the point to it.

SAJ Right! And so my cousin, my elder cousin, who is...uh, knows how I feel about bears and animals, ah, truly surprised me one Christmas by getting me The Teddy Bear Book. And I just absolutely freaked out! It was the best present I have ever gotten. And, uh, of course, I will bring that tonight and you must autograph it for me.

PB Oh, that's lovely to hear. It's done...it has done marvelously well. And, it's still doing well, um, but I, of course, I'm now got in my mind another book which is all the things that have happened to me since I wrote The Teddy Bear Book. Because, of course, I've had letters in from all over the world and I've discovered so many new facts. Well, I've uncovered really a whole closet underworld of teddy bear lovers.

SAJ Oh, yes. Well, when I was re-reading it this weekend before talking to you, I was thinking...you mentioned, um, Samantha Eggar's teddy bear and different ones, and I thought what a marvelous idea for a, um a photographic book just of famous teddy bears and, and their people...

PB Well, there's just been written um, a book about our poet laureate's teddy bear, who's called Archibald Ormsby Gore, is the name of



our poet laureate, um, our poet laureate's bear. He's called John Betjeman, as you probably know. (SAJ Yes.) And he wrote a book about his teddy bear. And now there's, and now there's a book come out merely written by the teddy bear. The teddy bear has very strong ideas on religion. He's call...um, he's, um, a strong Baptist and he asks my teddy bear, Theodore, to lunch from time to time. And they go into rather some of the deeper subjects of, um, life.

SAJ Yes. And, and owning persons.

PB Yes.

SAJ That's a very difficult thing-to own a person.

PB I think it tis, yes. Uh, but some, some of them have taken over, there're no two ways about it. I try and keep an even balance with mine.

SAJ Well, uh, Herman...that is a picture of Herman, there in the back.

PB Oh yes, I see.

SAJ And uh, in his better days.

PB Oh, why he looks pretty good there.

SAJ Uh, he uh, he's just not very photogenic.

PB He's full of character though, all the same.

SAJ Um, yes, but (Laughs) he was sixteen in November, and then I have a fellow named 'Teddy' who will be twenty-eight, he's a year younger than I am. And, um, he is one of the growler type that...

PB Oh, yes. Has he lost his growl?

SAJ Well...for the most part, yes. But on occassion...it is...the weirdest thing has happened. He was sitting in a chair with several other animals and I went...I reached for him. And I must have been...oh...six inches away from him, and there was no other movement, and he growled at me. And my mother says, "You're out of your mind" you know, "they aren't really live, Sally." And I keep saying, "What you don't know!"

PB Well, I think that that's very typical. Um, what I, why I was

saying, um, has he um, um, lost his growl, a lot of letters I get say, "Oh, my my, Edward or my..." oh, whatever it tis--Ted um, Teddy or um...Some of them have extraordinary names, like the cross-eyed ones who, of course, are called 'Gladly', as you know, Gladly, My Cross I'd Bear (Gladly, my cross-eyed bear). (laughter) But a lot of them, but a lot of them really write and say, "Now look, what can I do because they're falling apart." (SAJ Yes.) And, um, the other day I had a letter (laughs) which was literally headed The Golden Cross Nursing Home for Teddy Bears Needing Medical Attention or Retirement. And, um, there is a, a man, he's a man, Mr. Shepard. And he and his wife run this firm entirely for mending teddy bears and putting them back into health or if you find, find that they're really getting too, um, sort of sad looking and you can't look at them any longer, he will look after them as a nursing home. There's actually a museum in Virginia.

SAJ Really?

PB UM. Run by a lady called Iris Carter, in a place called Ivy, Virginia, which is called The Peter Bull (laughs) Peter Bull Memorial Museum (laughs) for...for Retired Teddy Bears. They're all on pension, of course. And um, they do very well there, and talk to each other about their past lives and everything. I think they're very happy.

SAJ I was wondering if there were establishments where retired bears could go...

PB Oh, yes!

SAJ And what happens when a bear's person goes away?

PB Well, there's a lot of very sad stories. There're a number of, there're a number of um letters I had of people who say, "Well, we're going to have, I'm going to have T. Edward cremated with me." And I mean, um, that really is true and most of them have left them to people. I'm afraid I've been left a great many, but I find them easy to dispose of because when a child has had a teddy bear stolen or given to a younger child, and they write to me and they say, "Look, where can I get hold of a lovely, old teddy bear?" I am able to supply one; because, you see, I don't really collect teddy bears. One can only be faithful to one teddy bear, I think; whatever you say...

SAJ I agree.

PB I think you can be faithful to only one teddy bear. But the fact remains that I'm now accumulated 100. Now, that's nothing to a Mr. Matt Murphy who's the President of um, a bank in San Francisco. And he has 2000 teddy bears, including a full American football team; well, two full American football teams, and they play each other football throughout the um, throughout the year. (SAJ laughs) And also, on his, in his brochure of the bank it says, "Put your irreplaceables in a safe place." (SAJ Ah ha.) And there is a picture of a safe with a teddy bear in it.

SAJ I want the name of that bank! I'm going to put all my money in it.

PB So, it's the Bank of Montreal, and this is the San Francisco branch. But I've barely had the chance to put my overdraft there. But he's, he's wonderful. And we have a man in Lon...in England called Colonel Henderson who is...he's champion um, of something called Good Bears of the World. And he collects money to give to um, ah gives ah to give teddy bears to children in hospitals. Because...well, I got it from a, um, a man from Ohio actually. A man called Russell McLean, who you, I think, you probably read about in the book. (SAJ Yes.) Who was a marvel. And I think Edith Straker, a lady who's in, who's in Lima, still runs, still runs the um, charity which provides teddy bears, I think, for the hospitals. I may have gotten it wrong, but I spoke to her a few years back and she was certainly still doing it. Although McLean has died himself. (SAJ Yes.) And I just managed to get the book out in time before he died.

SAJ Yes. I was wondering about Colonel Henderson. If he was still around?

PB Oh, he...More than around! He's absolutely enormously active. (SAJ laughs) Oh, yes! He tells me, "Yeah, I'm bringing my Mark III up on Wednesday. I thought we'd all have lunch together, you and Theodore and I, and my Mark III," he said. "And we must have that rally!" He's very keen, you see, on having a rally for...for the little chaps, he says to me. He talks exactly like that. It's so funny to see him with all these bears. And there's a picture indeed in the book of him with, with all the bears. And he's, he's, he's marvelous cause he's, he's our real... He devotes far more time to it than I can because I've got too many other interests. And I do, I do answer all my correspondence um, that I can.

SAJ That takes a lot of time.

PB Well, a lot of them, you see, are near...I, I don't want to be misunderstood, they're near of um...they're dangerous cases in that I know several old ladies who depend entirely on their teddy bears. (SAJ Um.) They are their lives. They aren't 'round the bend, they aren't mad at all. They just ah...look on them as re...remembrances of very very happy times, and if anything terrible happens...I have a very good case of a, a marvelous woman, a dear woman in um, in Connecticut whose um, husband has been a kind of...was, got...was paralyzed and became sort of a vegetable and she had to come visit him twice a week in his hospital. And she said, "If I, if it wasn't for Sinnamon" S-I-double N-A-M-O-N, was her bear. "I don't know, I think I'd go mad and become a vegetable myself. But I always come back and tell him what's happened and he's there, and he's been there all our lives, and reminds me of the happy times we all had together." (SAJ Um.) Now, if one drops that sort of correspondence, I feel that one lets them down. Therefore, I try and let, you know, write once a week, oh, not, why, not once a week. That's nonsense, that's sheer affectation! I write once a month or once every three months, but I don't loose touch at all. (SAJ Yes.) Another woman's been mugged in New York three times, and she doesn't mind because they've never stolen her teddy bear, whose called One-Eyed Connolly.

SAJ Oh, yes. I read about him.

PB He only has one eye, and he's wrap...wrapped in a bit of wool, and has no legs, but it's, it's her life.

SAJ You can get very attached to them.

PB Well, you can get incredibly attached to them, and a lot of people have. And the lucky thing is because by writing this book I think I've uncovered... And the number of people wrote and said, "I...after reading your book, I went up to um, the attic and got my old bear out from underneath some um, poly... um, out of polythene bag." (SAJ Um-hum.) And, of course, they should never be kept in polythene bags. They should never be hidden away. And they said, "I've put them in a proper place now. I've been wrong...and I do realize I've been wrong all these years."

SAJ Yeah. Um...the problem, though, is that if you've had bears, you know, that you, have come into the house, and then a new arrival comes and you feel guilty for the other ones if, when he becomes, you know, your, your major interest as in...Herman

did. There (PB Yes.) were a lot of bears before him and I feel rather guilty, you know, because I don't give enough attention to the other ones.

PB Well no, I think that happens. I mean, one has one's favorites and I think this is bound to happen. But, um, Theodore, I think I, I...I could never replace really. He is jealous of this new one because, um, the new one, I'm afraid, gets all the attention on the TV shows. And he was on...(laughs) frightfully funny, because he was on uh, we uh...I did the Tom Snyder Show last Christmas. I've been on the last two Christmas Tom Snyder shows. Because, I don't know whether you know Tom Snyder is a teddy bear freak.

SAJ Really??

PB Oh, yes! He has a teddy bear as a symbol.

SAJ I know that, but I never (PB Oh, he...) got the idea that he was really (PB Oh!) in...to...

PB Oh! He's my great friend!! I mean, he sent...the last two years, he's sent, he's sent for me just before Christmas, paid my fare, paid me an, what seemed to me, a vast sum just to come over and talk about teddy bears. But the last time, I put the...the...the smallest teddy bear in the world, you see, in front of me (SAJ Yes.) for a, oh, for a very long close-up. And literally while he was on, Theodore fell over like that, in absolute fury. (SAJ laughs) And this, this made Tom Snyder laugh like anything.

SAJ (laughs) Well, what's the name of his bear on...

PB His, his...his bear, it's just called Teddy. (SAJ Um.) It's no special bear. He actually has one very small one he carries of his own. But I, but there is a bear on the show who was stolen in, in London which was so awful, when he was doing television over there. (SAJ Oh.) Which I've been trying to find ever since without any luck.

SAJ It's horrible to think of someone stealing (PB stealing...) a bear.

PB Awful!! But I was on a talk show yesterday in ah, in ah, I'm not being affected, I can't remember where it was. Cleveland!! Cleveland, Cleveland, Cleveland. And uh...it uh, it was a very, very good morning show, I've been on it before, Morning Exchange.

And they take (SAJ Um.) telephone calls. And there was a woman who rang up, and she said, um, I'm afraid I thought she was absolutely looney, she said, "My little daughter's aged eight, and wants to take her teddy to school, which I don't think I ought to let her, do you?" I said, "Oh, really, mod...of course she should take her. And if, and if she's 83 and going to um, night school, she should be taking her teddy bear." (SAJ Yes!) I said, "There's no age limit to the age in which one will..." I said, "You'd be doing her a very great harm and I bet she'll hate you." She said, "Well, it also looks very shabby and I think I'll give her a new one for Christmas." And I said, "Now you ARE looking for trouble!" I said, "You, you...bears are irreplaceable. You cannot, you cannot...replace, replace a bear with a new one!"

SAJ Absolutely!!!

PB Because you want to keep up with the Joneses.

SAJ Well, I think that...in your book, you said that your mother, um, did away with yours...(PB Well, yes. She...) when you were in your teens, and...?

PB Well, indeed! She gave him to a jumble sale, rum...rummage sale, I think the phrase is.

SAJ Well, about that era in my life, my parents were going through the same thing, you know. "You're too old to have this bear." And I...um, just a big problem with it. (PB Absolutely!) And now that they find out that other people have bears, uh, they're a bit more tolerant. But, uh...

PB Now, I hope they watch MASH on television.

SAJ Um...I have pointed that out to them (PB laughs) and I get a great delight in that program.

PB Yes, quite. What's he called?

SAJ Radar.

PB Radar, Radar, Radar. Yes, of course.

SAJ And uh, well, you find teddy bears everywhere.

PB Absolutely!!! They um, well, you can't keep them away. Is that



telephone alright, or doesn't it matter?

SAJ No. It rings next door but not in here. (laughs)

PB Oh, thank Heavens! It's got some wonderful names on it. Spindel and Bias. Very good names in it.

SAJ Maddox...(PB Yes.) Galgano.

PB Very good indeed. Are they all names of teddy bears?

SAJ (laughs) No.

PB (laughs) No, they aren't.

SAJ They're the History Department.

PB Oh, the History Department. Well, that's something, that's something to do with teddy bears.

SAJ Yes. Definitely. Um, I was going to ask you um, just exactly where you were born and how long ago...

PB And when I was born. Well, I was, I'm now an elderly citizen, I'm over... I hear you say, "Oh, but you can't be!" I'm now an elderly citizen. Now, you say "Oh but you can't be!" You say it after me.

SAJ Oh. Oh, but you can't be!!

PB That's right. That's better, or can't be, that's right. Anyhow I'm now an elderly citizen, therefore I was born in March 21st, 1912 in London. (SAJ Um.) My father was a member of Parliament. And he, he was a member of Parliament for thirty years; very right wing, and rather aggressive. He was a lovely man, but he was always um, calling um, the Prime Minister terrible things in Parliament, and so on. But he was...I had a very happy childhood, unlike so many of our deprived friends. (SAJ Um-hum.) And uh...

SAJ Brothers or sisters?

PB I had three, three brothers; one who was killed in the war. And, uh, I grew up...I went to a horrid public school, called Winchester which supposedly is the best school in England; I absolutely hated it. And then I went into Journalism like, like you. And



I wasn't a frightfully good journalist, I always really wanted to go into the Theater! And when I say into the Theater, I really meant I didn't mind being a dresser or going into the box office. I was just very enamored by the theater; as indeed I shall tell the audience, and do tell the audience most of the times. (SAJ Um.) In those days it all seemed incredibly glamorous, which it doesn't to me any longer. (SAJ laughs) And, um, uh, my father didn't want me to go on. It wasn't till after he'd died that I really went on to it seriously. And, ah, I had incredible luck all through my life. They say that Aries people, I'm going to get on to astrology in a minute even though you are a Capricorn, and I think you're a disbeliever...

SAJ (laughs) No! I'm not.

PB No? You aren't? Good, you're a believer, because usually (SAJ Yes.) I, I don't know whether you know I have an astrology shop in London.

SAJ You do??

PB Certainly! Yes. It's called Zodiac. And uh, I went into astrology about, ah, six years ago.

SAJ I wanted to ask about your (PB That's right.) necklace...

PB Aries. With um, Mars, which is the match...well, it's the... it's my rul...ruling planet. (SAJ Um hum.) I wear it always. It's hand made and it's one, one of the things we sell in our little shop. But um, I was going...Capricorn, oddly enough, mainly they, uh, once they're convinced, they're absolutely splendid, but usually I can tell the signs, as, as I'm going to do tonight up in the audience. And make a lot of wild shots. (SAJ laughs) Um, I can usually tell the signs, because if anyone comes in and says, "You do, you don't believe in all this rubbish." It's practically always a Capricorn, because Capricorns are fiercely practical. Once they're convinced of a thing, then they're absolutely, you know, they're, they're the most loyal and marvelous friends. And I think I really'd rather have them handle my money than...(laughter) than any...anybody else. Is this true of you or not?

SAJ Um, if I have a lot of money, I'm very, very stingy with it, very...(PB That's right.) But if I have a little bit of money, it seems to go very fast.

PB Well, I thin...I think you'll find you probably will have a great deal of money, you will, you will be very good with it and you'll invest it properly. And, and you won't get fooled like so many of us. No, Capricorns, I think are very, very reliable, very good, and they... It's not a dull sign at all, it's just that they are, they aren't dreamers like Pisces are, or flitting about like Gemini are, who've enormous energy but they're going backwards and forwards, and...And indeed, my sign, Aries, who are bossy and start on enterprises in which they never finish. Now, somebody else always has to (SAJ Um.) has to do it. We have wonderful ideas, Aries, but, um, (SAJ My mother...) we never follow through.

SAJ My mother says that to me. "You always think of these magnificent creations to sew. And you go out and get the material, and then we have stacks of material around the house." And I never finish anything.

PB Well, that sounds like Aries...not like Capricorn at all.

SAJ I know I...there's a lot of me that (laughs) is not Capricorn.

PB Perh...perhaps you're on the cusp.

SAJ Ah, December the 26th.

PB You're fairly near, aren't you?

SAJ Um hum.

PB You see, the other thing I think about Capricorns is that they never really get over the fact that they were born jolly nearly, near Christmas. Therefore, they have, have an inner resentment of anything kind of...(SAJ laughs) um, like that. They probably think, "Oh, well. I get one present for the two things." (SAJ laughs) Therefore, there is an inner resentment against that I think.

SAJ Ah, well, uh, my father explains that the reason I am late for everything is that I had nine months to land on Christmas (PB Yes.) and I blew it by fifteen minutes, so then, you know, (PB Yes, quite.) I shall be fifteen minutes late to my own funeral which won't bother me a bit.

PB Uh-hu. Yes, quite. How we doing of the tape? Alright?

SAJ Uh, yes. Keep...

PB Now...what, do you want to get on with my career? No, not at all!

SAJ Well, you said you started in the theater...

PB Oh, yes. You don't really, you don't want the whole of my career, that's the most dreary thing in the whole of the world. You can't want the whole of my career!

(interruption by History secretary:knocks,

Sec Oh, hello.

SAJ Hello.

PB Hello.

Sec Excuse me.

SAJ Alright.

Sec Just need a folder.)

PB You can't want the whole of my career.

SAJ Well...!

PB Can't I, can't I cut to cue?

SAJ (laughs) I want to ask you about...you seemed to have such a good time in the movie Tom Jones...

PB Yes I did!!!

SAJ That's the one that I can, I never saw Dr. Strangelove so I can't comment about that, but Tom Jones I've seen several times.

PB Tom Jones, that, ah, yes. We all, we all adored; um partly because the majority of the cast was straight from Luther, which was a very happy company. And, um, there were a lot of marvelous people in it. It was a very beautiful summer. And we were allowed really to say the lines that we liked. And this...Tony Richardson, who is not always a very successful director, and sadly has just had a failure with a, the successor to Tom Jones, which I am also in, called Joseph Andrews, in which I play Ann-Margaret's husband. But I think has not captured the public, although I'm certain as eggs is eggs, or eggs are eggs, that in ten years time, it'll be a great cult film, because it has a kind of pictorial beauty which I think, you know, is breath-taking. But Tom Jones was a wonderful film to be in because, ah, we knew that it was all spontaneous. Now, this can sometimes

be undisciplined. And I don't altogether agree with all your method acting. I always remember that, um, I was in a play with um, a lovely, beautiful, wonderful American actress called Geraldine Page. (SAJ Um hum.) Who was a method actress. It was very unfortunate, we were in a play called Black Comedy where she had to pretend, and not to be s...not to see (SAJ Um) when, when, when the lights were on she had to pretend to be blind. (SAJ Um hum.) She was totally unable to do this whereas...so that everyone was going around on stage looking blind, she was sort of looking straight through you. The efforts threw the, threw the whole play simply to smithereens. Um, and, which is why I'd rather (laughs)...the perfect case of where, where the method actress, actor doesn't quite, um, work. But that's neither here nor there. And, let me hasten to add, that I think, I do think she's a superb actress. I just don't believe in that sort of kind of acting for, um, for, and I um certain plays. The spontaneity of Tom Jones, what lay in the fact that we were given a great deal of rein about what we said. And we all believed in the director implicitly. (SAJ Um.) And it was just a, a fun film to be in. And it went on for days and years and months, and we, we had just a ball. It was just simple as that. And, I think ac...I think it comes through that we did.

SAJ Yes, it certainly did. Um...

PB I mean it really was 'bout the most enjoyable film...I've been I've been in some other...I'm awfully lucky because I've been in some sort of very distinguished ones. I thought The African Queen was a very distinguished one. I was amazed to see it put second best film ever made. I don't think...I think that's over-rating it myself. But I had a marvelous time with Katherine Hepburn, Humphrey Bogart, and that. And that was one of my favorite films. Strangelove, oddly enough, which possibly was my su...most sort of fit in a way, it did me more good. More people seemed to recognize me. I think it's shown more on your late, late, late, late, late, late, late, late shows than any other of my films. Did you ever happen to see a dreadful one called The Old Dark House, in which I played twins and I get murdered and you see me in two coffins at the same time? (SAJ Um.) That's shown a great deal. (SAJ laughs) Ah, but of course in, in America you do get those late, late, late shows, and I se...um, I find myself recognized more here than I am in England (SAJ Yes.) because we only have three channels over there.

SAJ Just three?

PB Two of them, two of them are non-commercial. So it's absolutely not...no ads at'all.

SAJ The current British program that is over here on Public Broadcasting is I, Claudius.

PB Oh, yes. Don't you think that's good?

SAJ Yes! Being a Classicist, um. I sometimes disagree with (PB Yes, quite.) with what's going on; especially with Tacitus. Dr. Galgano says, "You absolutely hate that man!" (laughter) And I, I must completely agree with him on that, but...

PB Yes. There's some very good acting in it though. And, it's um, very bold film. You must remember, you see...what I think people forget about, um, when they see these um, these English importations is that they are done on an incredibly low budget. And I think in a funny way, unless one's sort of determined to find fault, something like I, Claudius is very remarkable if one saw how much money was spent on ac...um, actually, if you look at all those extras, they're all the oldest actors you've ever seen. I mean, they're so old! (SAJ laughs) All the palace guard are so old, they can, they can hardly climb up stairs. (SAJ laughs) Absolutely!! (SAJ laughs) That's because all the young actors are engaged on slightly higher paid jobs. (SAJ laughs) But they do, they manage to do a pretty um, pretty good job. We've um, we've got a wonderful one coming along. The best I, almost I've ever seen, which is from a very rare Dickens book called Hard Times. (SAJ Yes.) And that's absolutely smashing!

SAJ It's too bad that we have to wait for such a period (PB Yes, that's right.) to get them here. (PB Absolutely.) Um...

PB And then I hear you don't pay us enough. But, however, we won't go into that actually.

SAJ (laughs) I don't have any idea about that, just...

PB Right! What are we doing, are we at work?

SAJ No, we still have more time, lots more time. I wanted to ask you, you said something about, ah, your new book that was just coming out.

PB Well, I think I'd better, I'd better not confuse people about this because it's, it's an English publication. It is a teddy

bear book, but the first Teddy Bear Book, in England, was a very small, um, wasn't a coffee table book at all. It was in substance, um, like the American book, but it was not attractive. It didn't, did not have anywhere near as many photographs. (SAJ Um hum.) Now, the new English book which I hope will eventually be done, not I hope for several years in America, is really all things that have happened since then, because, and luckily, the American edition is still selling very well, and people'd only get confused I think. I mean, it tis really a kind of, um, corollary, is that the word? (SAJ Um hum.) To the first book. But it came out about a few weeks ago in England. (SAJ Umm.) And to confuse everything else, it's called Peter Bull's Teddy Bear Book. (SAJ Oh.) But I, I don't know whether you'd better say this because, perhaps, well, they can, they can only get it from me, but this is the trouble.

SAJ Well if we can just...But if I can find...oh, what was the name of that large bookstore in, um, off Picadilly Circus, um...?

PB Foyle's?

SAJ Foyles, YES! I love that place, I (PB laughs) my father hated it, but...

PB Did he? But, um um, we sell it at my, my own place. You'd better, you'd better...that's my, that's my...if ever...when you, the next time you come, that is, that is my shop.

SAJ Thank you, thank you.

PB And oddly enough, we are, we are...thou...because of the Teddy Bear Book coming out, we have little tiny bears in the window. Normally, we don't, we don't allow any bears. Although I'd very much like to, to run a bear shop. There's one in Boston now, called The Bear Accessories. And I was on this television program, and, suddenly this man appeared who'd made all these beautiful, beautiful bears which you, um, you can stick on to the side of your lapel, you can...And he's got some bear shirts which say: Bear With Me. (SAJ OH!) And um, which was the name of my b...the Teddy Bear Book in England, when I first, when I first, when I first, um, wrote it (SAJ Yes.) It's got everything good there. He's having, he's having...doing frightfully well. And, really marvelously well. And it's not only 'cause it's close to Christmas.

SAJ I'm going to look that one up, and...



PB Yes, he's a man called Tim Adkins, I think. It's called The Bear, I don't think I've got it on me, um, The Bear Accessories. Or The Bear, yes, I think it's The Bear Necessities, or The Bear Accessories. But, um, he was on the same program as I with my teddies. And I think I've got it here... (business card from Mr. Adkins).

SAJ Um, have you done any...I know you're doing this tour; that takes up a lot of your time. Have you done any films or theater recently that...

PB No. I've done two very minor films this year. Um...one was about wife beating that I don't think you'll see, at least I hope you won't. Oh, you'll see it on the late, late show, called The Brute or The Brute Syndrome, I think. And then I did one about um, nurses; rather like those terrible doctor films. (SAJ laughs) And the last major film I did was this one with, which was, I thought, beautiful was Joseph Andrews with Ann-Margaret. Um, that was last year and I guess it's now showing sort of...in very limited, um, theaters all around America. (SAJ Um.) But I don't..I've given up the theater altogether. I don't ever want to be in the theater again. Not because, um, ah, not because I hate the theater, although I do hate the modern theater; I don't understand half the plays I see. I'm a bit of a Philistine frankly. And it was a great delight to find there was a curtain that actually went up and down (SAJ laughs) in this, in this building. I loathe the modern theaters. Have we come to the end of the tape?

SAJ MMMMM. Let's change.

(change of tape)

SAJ There we go. Um, actually I'm doing...I'm a Graduate Assistant in the Oral History of Appalachia. And that is doing interviews like we're doing. (PB Yes.) But mostly with um, people over 65 that um, I guess people would refer to as 'hill people', that know certain arts and crafts, and things like that. Ways of life that are now passing from the scene.

PB That's me.

SAJ (laughs) Really? (laughs) I doubt that you are um, ...

PB (laughs) That's me. I'm not...the only thing is that...



SAJ ...an endangered species...

PB I don't think I'm Appalachian. But the other things I have dabbled in, of course. And, um, and finally gotten now into astrology. I am really primary now, you see, a shopkeeper if somebody asks me what I am. But I find...I find the study of life and people more interesting now than I've ever found it in my life. I mean...the things...I never dreamt that I, I would come to a, a town or city like Huntington, and see within 500 yards of each other two enormous stores entirely devoted to the selling of fish and aquaria. I mean, you wouldn't find that anywhere in the whole of the world. It's absolutely staggered me. The other night I was in a taxi coming back just before Thanksgiving in New York. And, um, the lady that was driving the taxi said to me, um, as I was getting out, "I'm serving Chablis before the turkey, what do you think I ought to have as a liquor?" This is from a lady taxi driver! So I, absolutely staggered, I said, "Well, I think I'd better get back into the taxi and discuss it with you." (SAJ laughs) So, um, we then decided...she said creme de menthe was too sweet, so we decided on um, Oh, what's the stuff called? Um, almonyac, I think. (SAJ Um.) But I find people now so rivetting, and so fascinating. (SAJ Um hum.) And I make sort of many mental notes to write books about it, and bring them into books because um, people are so much more unbelievable now than fiction is. Therefore, um, perhaps as, as one's older, this is what's so curious, and I think that I must be a freak because I notice things far more than I used to. (SAJ Um hum.) And not only bears, who are, who are, absolutely everywhere. Bears and advertisements. Where one has never looked at before and suddenly sees a bear here and a bear there. If there's a Russian spy leaving the country, 10 to 1, the wife is carrying a bear with her. (SAJ laughs)

SAJ To smuggle information? Or just because they can't get...

PB No, they're not smuggling information out. We have the terrible trouble (SAJ Yes.) of bears who are used for vile things. (SAJ Yes.) And are bugged like, um, the gentleman from Dusseldorf. You read about him, I suppose? (SAJ Well, it...) About his wife going away and um, with, with his manager um, upon a skiing expedition and suspected she was being unfaithful. So he sent her a teddy bear with a bugged um... And the bug means, of course, that he reported everything that went on, I'm afraid, in the bedroom. (SAJ Oh, goodness.) And so he divorced her. And he also found she was trying to steal 80,000 marks so it was alright.

SAJ No, no. I take mine...

PB Neat. Um, no, I do lots of ladies-in-hats lunches in England, and dinners and things like that. And talk to them about teddy bears and various things. And um, they're lovely old girls actually. But they do tend to nod off a bit though (SAJ laughs) because they've had this enormous lunch first. They really, I'm afraid, half of them only come to the lunch.

SAJ Um, I know. (laughs)

PB Or something, something happen. Don't say...don't say they come for dinner this evening.

SAJ (laughs) There is no dinner.

PB There is no dinner. Now what am I going to eat I wonder. Anyhow I've got to go off at six in the morning to Wilkesbar, barie, bar, bar, Wilkesbar. I've got to do this show tomorrow night.

SAJ MMM, you said that you would take the um, airporter to...?

PB That's right.

SAJ Would you like for me to take you?

PB No. It's, it'd be far too much of an imposition. I mean, it's really so incredibly early. No, it really is.

SAJ No. I would not mind at all.

PB No, no, no, the airporter'll be quite alright. And I think I'd be happier if I didn't...no, I'd be, I'd be hap...I wouldn't be happy with the airporter, but I'd be happier not to put anyone... as it arrives at the hotel it seems to me absolutely ludicrous. And, I'll have to pay my bill and do all sorts of things. No, I'll be quite alright, I promise you.

SAJ I don't want...

PB I promise you...Hello.

SAJ Hello. This is my mentor, Dr. Galgano...

PB Hello.

SAJ ...Peter Bull.

DrG How are you, sir?

PB I'm fairly ill, thank you. How are you? (SAJ laughs)

DrG I don't imagine you'd be very well sitting in un...here.

PB I have...

DrG I imagine you could find many , more comfortable places.

PB I have to appear at your auditorium this evening, so (DrG Ah, yes.) I must... And I am now being interviewed by a very high-powered, a very high-powered executive...

DrG You needn't fear.

SAJ Now, I haven't tried to sell you a cemetery plot, yet. (laughs)

DrG Well, I will leave you to your work.

PB Well, no, no. We're getting along splendidly. I'm interviewing her actually.

DrG Even better. (laughs) (PB laughs)

SAJ (laughs) Do a good job of it, my grade depends on it.

DrG (laughs) Hardly.

PB Righty ho! Nice to meet you.

SAJ Um, I was going to...when you were talking about the gentleman in Dusseldorf. (PB Yes.) That when I went, when I went to Mexico one summer to study archaeology, I studied the next summer in Greece. In passing through Customs in all those different places...I naturally carried Herman in a ba...handbag with me. But I also carried a collapsible umbrella in case a customs agent got a little too fierce with him (laughs) I was going to attack the customs agent with my umbrella, (PB and SAJ laugh) in defense of my bear. Thank God I didn't have to do that but (PB Quite.) I doubt my father would have bailed me out of jail.

PB Oh, I find the reverse with Customs. I find your customs officers are marvelous with the bears, because this time he said, rather

sharply, "Well, Mr. Bull, you've been out of this country..." because I'm actually I'm a resident alien of America. He said, "You've been out of this country now for ten months. So you mean to say you haven't collected more than \$50 worth of presents?" I said, "No. I haven't." He said, "Well, what is the most valuable thing you've brought back?" So, I produced from my pocket, I said, "This." I said, "It's the tiniest teddy bear in the world." And he was so flabbergasted he just sort of ticked off my luggage (SAJ laughs) and I went straight through. I find them...once you start talking about bears, and luckily, because they've seen me on the um, you know, Jimmy, Johnny Carson or with Merv Griffin or something like that. It sort of strikes a note. And I'm afraid I carry a copy of my book fairly near the top, so I, I, I think I get away with murder.

SAJ Here I am..(laughs)

PB And um, and so...the only trouble I had was once on an aeroplane. I asked a lady airhostess to um, to fasten their safety belts. And she gave me one agonized look and rushed off to the Captain to say, "I think there's a hijacker on board!" (SAJ laughs) And, un...

SAJ And then pointed to one of the bears instead of you.

PB Well, no. She said, "I think those little creatures had probably got revolvers concealed about their persons." The Captain came out and told me and um, roared with laughter. And that was that.

SAJ (laughs) Oh, um, you...I read somewhere about this beautiful sculpture that someone had given you, um, in the shape of a bear. And that it was (PB Gold.) practically (PB Yes.) see through(PB Absolutely.) or something like that?

PB Yes, he's beautiful. He's lost an eye though at the moment. I'm trying to fi...replace an eye. But I was also given, which I really meant to bring here, except that it, it's useless...no, it's marvelous. It's a marvelous demonstration thing I have for children which is Teddy Roosevelt holding a bear. (SAJ Ah.) Which, which explains how, how it all came...how it all started, which was done especially for me.

SAJ He is my favorite President for that reason..(laughs)...

PB Well, yes...except...

SAJ ...politics aside, I don't...

PB Except his daughter told me he didn't really like bears, but he thought they were very useful as political um, emblems.

SAJ Well, he was good at using (PB I know.) things like that.

PB Cause I went and had tea with his, his, his daughter a few years ago.

SAJ Um, let's see that wou...

PB ...Alice Longworth.

SAJ She is a character is she not? (laughs)

PB She is indeed! I got her direct on the phone. She's one of the few people I know, like Hermione Gingold my fiancée, who answers the phone directly.

SAJ Hum. Usually, it's an agent or a maid and a um...

PB That's right. Um, Mrs. Mrs. Longworth answered immediately. And I said, "Can I, could I come give her a copy of the book, a presentation copy." And she said, "Yes, as long as you don't bring any press or any teddy bears. I hate them both!"

SAJ Oh, dear!

PB So, I didn't, so I didn't...Theodore, of course, was in my pocket, so that was alright.

SAJ Don't tell anyone. (laughs)

PB And um, that was that.

SAJ Um, I have...I am so fond of Herman that I have...when we had to replace our dog, I wanted a dog that would resemble a bear.

PB Yes, quite.

SAJ And so the ones I settled on were Chow Chows. Do you know the breed?

PB I...yes, I do, yes. We call them Chows, I think.

SAJ Yes.

PB ...Yes. I know them.

SAJ And I also determined that, so that she would not be lonesome, I bought two of them. (laughs) (PB Yes.) And this happened while my parents were in Europe this summer. (laughs)

PB And they came back and weren't displeased?

SAJ They were very displeased. They were thinking of keeping the dogs and throwing me out. (PB laughs) But they are two adorable little dogs. And they are both black, and one of them is named Teddee Beare. (PB laughs) Teddee Beare Herman is her full name. The other one is named after our late dog um, Fluffy Muppet Kandi.

PB That's a good name.

SAJ And um, my father makes fun of it. He says, "I can just see if one of them gets out of the front door; I'm running down the street 'Fluffy Muppet Kandi, come back!'" (laughs) But um, they are beginning to look like teddy bears which is making me very happy.

PB That's very good indeed, yes.

SAJ And um, of course then, um I try to pick...when I see a bear that I might like, he has to, of course, have a nice disposition. And when I was in Puerto Rico one summer, I saw a bear that looked exactly like Paddington Bear. And so I brought him home on the plane, and had to fight off three stewardesses to keep him.

PB I'm sure.

SAJ And um, my father, you know, "Another bear! Just what we need!" (laughs)

PB Yes; you can, you can get, you can get Paddingtons over here now can't you?

SAJ Yes. It...but to me it does not look like Paddington. (PB Um hum.) My Paddington looks like Paddington!

PB You, you bought him in England, did you?

SAJ No, I bought this one in San Juan, Puerto Rico. (PB Ah ha.) And un, he wears his little San Juan T-shirt, what the well-dressed bear should wear. And he, to me, he looks identical to Paddington, but to others, they say...Hmmm.

PB Doesn't look like Paddington.

SAJ No. But I know he is, and Herman knows he is and...

PB That's where it counts.

SAJ Definitely...(laughs). Now, on the cover of your book, there was on the back cover, there's a picture of you and a bear.

PB The...just a very big bear that's...he's not really anything to do with anything. He's just a bear called Terry Bear, T-E-double R-Y; cause he was given to me by someone called Terry. He's a very, he's a very modern version of a very old-fashioned bear. His snag is that his head will not hold up. (SAJ Ooh!!) And in the old days, of course, in 1912, all the bears had humps on, which um, on their back which held them up.

SAJ My parents brought back one from...

PB Steiff? From Germany?

SAJ Well, the little Steiff one for Herman, and then a larger...well, a bear, it's not a Steiff. He's about this big(approximately 10"). And he has a hump. (PB Um.) He's, he's movable, and um, I looked at him, you know, because I'd never seen one that had sort of a hump on it. And he's a modern bear. So (PB Um hum.) other than that...(laughs). (PB Yes, quite.) But, um, he's just one of your residents then...

PB Well, he's just one of our residents, yes. I don...I don't know why, why they photographed him particularly, um; just a phot... a picture they had. I don...I personally don't like that picture because the whole of my head all...looks as though I'd been scalped by the Indians. (SAJ Um hum.) But um, that's only a personal thing because ac...authors very rarely have um, have a choice of covers, which I discovered to my cost.

SAJ They just...pick whatever they like and put it on?

PB Well, they, they leave usually uh leave it till too late and then say, "Do you like this cover?" And you say, "No!" And they say,



"Well, I'm afraid...frightfully sorry. It's too late, we've un, we've got to have this or it's postponed another six months." And so they always have you with both. Or by the short hair, so to speak, and you have to agree. I mean, what...my new English covers are absolutely awful, I think. It makes me look like a Thalomide teddy bear; but, however...

SAJ Oh! Don't...(laughs)

PB No. Really!! (SAJ laughs) But um, the contents...the photographs are marvelous because it's got one or two extraordinary photographs. It's got a photograph of um, Christopher Robin with a teddy bear which isn't Winnie-the-Pooh. (SAJ OH!) Um, which is unique I think. And um, for a friend of mine whose bear it was actually because they pay those children...

SAJ He said that he was really not that...

PB Oh no!

SAJ ...fond...

PB He absolutely hates the whole thing. His life was whole, ruined, was ruined by Winnie-the-Pooh no doubt about that at all. (SAJ Um.) Because people at school, and um, people at school sort of made fun of Christopher Robin falling down the stairs and all that.

SAJ Oh. Yes. What about, um, let's see, oh, the, what I think of when I think of The Hobbit, and the Lord of the Rings, as a teddy bear-like creature...

PB Yes.

SAJ And...do other people get that impression? For a hobbit? Is he part...bear?

PB No, I don't think so. I think...no, I think it's another, another, it's another thing altogether, it's...

SAJ I'm too bear oriented is it?

PB I think you really are! I, I, I'm a funny way, I don't ever look on...I hardly look on Paddington as a bear. I certainly don't look on pandas as bears. I think they're first cousins. (SAJ Oh.) But they aren't really to me real bears. I've done

a lot of programs and people have tried to kink of um, I think, I don't want you to say set you up, but have tried to um, you know, make fun of me. They've produced a lot of sort of really ghastly-looking bears. Those awful ones that you can wash and do wee-wees, and so on and so forth. (SAJ Oh yes.) And I said, "They aren't what I mean by teddy bears at'all." Or not like the old-fashioned teddy bear.

SAJ Yes. I'm rather appalled by orange and purple and (PB Absolutely!) electric green...

PB Oh dreadful! I had one that had a heartbeat the other day which was... (SAJ Really?) You listened to it and it's heart beat. I found that deeply worrying. (SAJ Um.) I thought it should have a transplant straight away. (SAJ laughs) Either that or give its heart as a, as a transplant to somebody.

SAJ Definitely! Herman had a music-box which I promptly took out and dismantled to see how it worked...

PB (laughs) Yes, quite. Well, I think that's the sort of thing automatically one does.

SAJ And he has felt better ever since.

PB Very, very good indeed.

SAJ Ah, he's just...

PB No, I have very, very few plans at'all. I'm, I'm, I'm just, I have got another book I'm writing at the moment, called The Roof Under My Head. But um, which is really all about my floor fallin...my floor and my ceiling falling through...

SAJ In Greece...

PB No, no.

SAJ ...or in London?

PB This is, this is in London. As a result of a lady who read my Tarot cards. Ah, she read my Tarot cards and said she foresaw a great danger from a floor or ceiling, and I roared with laughter. (SAJ laughs) And I went back that night and I said to my lodger, "Look here, lodger, this lady's rather right about some other things, um. And we'd moved the refrigerator, and he took up the

linoleum and fell straight through to the floor down below.  
(SAJ OH!) So...dragging me with him. (SAJ laughs) And um, however we weren't um, everyone laughs, so actually we weren't killed. And uh...

SAJ Obviously! (laughs)

PB And uh, I'm writing a sort of book now really about disasters in my life. Like un, like that sort of thing um...

SAJ Earthquake, tornado...

PB Greek, Greek, Greek revolutions and so on.

SAJ Oh yes!

PB And um, it should be out, in England anyhow, next year. I, I, I don't know if any of them will ever come out...I may do an anthology over here. But I write very special, I write very specialized, and I speak in a sort of, a kind of extraordinary way that isn't quite like ordinary English. And I think um, ah, I don't think I'll ever become a cult figure over here (SAJ and PB laugh) I'm afraid...although I do, although I'm awfully lucky 'cause I seem to be able to get on all the talk shows. (SAJ Um.) And I, I like talking. Indeed, appearing as I am tonight. (SAJ Yes.) 'Cept I must go in a minute to go have a sort of a lie-down in order to give my best to the... (SAJ Yes.) ladies and gentlemen and...

SAJ And, and bears. Don't forget bears!

PB And bears. Give...give them my best, yes.

SAJ Yes.

PB Is there any other sort of really trenchant questions you'd like to ask me?

SAJ Well, you said that you live still in London...you have a place in London and still one in New York...

PB Ah..I have a room in New York. I, I, it's, it's idle to say I have an apartment. I don't. I have a room where I keep all my props because I come over here at least once a year. Um... and I may even come over a little more now because, because the, the flights are so cheap. (SAJ Um hum.) And I have a house in

Greece and I have a shop, ah, as you can see, in Nottinghill Gate. But the shop, at the moment is my prime consideration, because it's just sort of um, at last, beginning to take wing. We had a whole column about how beautiful it was...

(interruption by secretary:

Sec This is a busy place, isn't it?)

PB ...in The Times, um, the Sunday um, the London Times about two weeks ago. (SAJ Um hum.) And suddenly business went up like anything and um...

SAJ People finally found that the, the Teddy Bear Man has...

PB Well, no; not so much that. We're really lucky because we have people like Ann-Margaret and Albert Finney and who-knows coming behind the counter whenever they happen to be in London. (SAJ OH!) And Robert Morely's in a good deal. And, um, but being an actor, one's friends are the stars, do rally 'round like anything...(SAJ Yes.)...all by their first night presence there. And um, because of their individual presence um, we can, we can find you a Capricorn silver pendant or a glass, um, a hand-engraved glass with Capricorn on it or a tea towel with Capricorn in it. Or anything with Capricorn on it really. (SAJ laughs) Now even, even oven mitts.

SAJ Well, um, I'm not too good in the kitchen at all. (laughs)

PB Aren't you? No, no; well, with Cancer you would be but, un, I, I find it all fascinating. I find the mystique of being, of being a um, a shopkeeper, I find it very interesting after all these years. I, I, I still would act I suppose but um, I don't any longer thrill...I was asked to be in a, in a Neil Simon film in Hollywood this year. Was amazing to find my reaction. It spoke Peter Falk (SAJ OH!) in a murder thing. I suddenly didn't want...I, I don't know. I said, "Well, I don't really want to go to Hollywood again." I've been to Hollywood twice or three times...no, I've been three times. And I always feel like a stranded whale there (SAJ Um.) because I can't drive. And so so that I have to rely on my friends, the stars, or (SAJ Hu.) other people driving me from place to place. I mean, I have it in my contract always that I'm get...that I'm, anyhow get to my work on time. (SAJ Yes.) But I do find it a terrible thing to be stranded there and I suddenly didn't want it that way, you know. I had Hollywood whe...at it's absolute best and most exciting. I'm going to talk about that tonight because um, I

look back on those old days at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer and um, all those stars who were sitting in the main commissary.

SAJ Do you think that there are 'stars' today, as there were 'stars' in that era?

PB No. Not at'all (SAJ I uh...) 'Cause the vehicles aren't there. You see no one who writes...no one writes vehicles for professional people. I mean everyone laughs at all those Joan Crawford, um, Bette Davis things, but they were tailor made for that star. Every story was for that star. Nowadays what is...the worst happens is that somebody reads a book and says, "Look, I think ma...might make a marvelous part for so-and-so." And they fit into it. And because there aren't any longer such as great stars, most of them get away with it and that's fine. But there's no longer that continuity there used to be by which uh, somebody played roughly the same part and one...my goodness, how enjoyable they were when you think back on the character Aunt Irene Dunn comedies and all those (SAJ Um.) which I'm sure you still see. (SAJ Yes.) Or the Myrna Loy-William Powell (SAJ Oh, definitely!) ones. I mean, there's nothing to touch them now, you see, in any kind of way.

SAJ UM, I met Miss Loy when she was here one time, and talk about a classy woman! You know, just...

PB Yes, I met her once and I thought she was marvelous.

SAJ Oh, beautiful! And I don't think that the actors that are around today are of the calibre. Maybe they, maybe they could rise to the occassion, but as you say, there is no occassion to rise to.

PB I, I don't think there is! I don't think there is, I really don't. I don't think, certainly there aren't, aren't the plays. And I dunno, it's all, it's all to me got out of hand um. It's, it's the way that everyone wants to do Hamlet now, in, on motorbikes and...(SAJ laughs) and that kind of thing that doesn't...I, I can see no point in it. I un, I now know ever...never want to see certain plays ever again 'cause I've seen them done to perfection. And I...it just doesn't interest me now to see them done with everyone on skateboards or whatever it happens to be.

SAJ I know. My parents wanted me to go see a local rendition of The King and I. And I said, "Well, after you've seen Yul Brynner in The King and I..." (PB yes, that's it!) That's it.

PB Absolutely. Absolutely. Absolutely right!

SAJ So...

PB But still, A Chorus Line is jolly good.

SAJ Um-hum, um-hum.

PB That's certainly a good one. (SAJ Um.) 'Cause that's where the show's the star, and um, it's something...a remarkable quality. Well, I...once in a lifetime something comes along; well, not... once in a decade, something comes along which, which really thrills you to the marrow. But I don't think I, I want to be in...I was very lucky I was in about three revolutionary plays. One was um; no, two certainly. I was in the original production of Waiting for Godot (pronounced God o), which, which you call wrong over here. You call it Waiting for Godot (pronounced Go Do), thus missing the whole point of the play. And The Lady's Not For Burning by Christopher Frye. (SAJ Oh.) I was in the original productions of both those. And, of course, um, I was lucky in that, in that I, I, caught sort of the aftermath of all that, and I was in a lot of plays I didn't quite understand. And Luther in a way was, was, was a revolutionary play, I think. (SAJ Um hum.) It was sort of a...was a very early Osbourne.

SAJ Do you think that um...you were talking about a, a movie that was...that would thrill one? Have you seen Star Wars?

PB No. I heard a great deal about it from my friend Alec Guinness, because he's on a percentage...

SAJ Oh, he...

PB ...um, and he...

SAJ ...Is that the only reason he...

PB And, and when he first started it he said, "Oh, I don't know, I don...I don't know whether they've got any money. They're very nice, but it's the first time in me life that I'm thinking of asking for a percentage." And um, no I haven't...I jolly nearly saw it last night but it was showing at all the wrong times and I had to go to bed early.

SAJ It is...

PB Well, I gathered...

SAJ ...fantastic!!!

PB ...you, you've all gone mad about it.

SAJ Absolutely! I have. (laughs)

PB You've all gone absolutely ape about it. Perhaps I'll go there instead of doing the show tonight.

SAJ (laughs) Can I go too?

PB Yes, please. It...it's, it's much more amusing. (SAJ Yea.) Is that really alright, or do you want me to have a neat finish?

SAJ Oh, no.

PB Goodbye. Thank you very, very much for interviewing me.

SAJ Oh, you're very welcome.